GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4488
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2000
GROWTH OF COFFEE ON FOREST LAND
M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 the cultivation of coffee is defined as non-forestry activity and not permitted on forest land;

(b) if so, whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government for exemption under Forest Conservation Act to grow coffee on the forest land; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) As per the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 , cultivation of coffee has been defined as non-forest activity and therefore for carrying out such activity on forest land, prior approval of Central Government is required to be obtained by the State Government.

(b)&(c) A request of State Government of Andhra Pradesh for exemption under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to grow coffee on forest land in Vishakhapatnnam and East Godavari districts was received . In view of provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the State Government was informed that it is not possible to grant general exemption under the Act, however, if the State Government submits formal proposal as per the rules and guidelines made under the Act , then it can be considered. So far, Central Government has not received any formal proposal in this regard from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh .